

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States  
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Agriculture

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Market News Branch

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2202 Monterey St. Suite 104-F  
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Phone: 559-487-5178 FAX: 559-487-5199  
Federal Market News Service  
21 North 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Suite 224  
Yakima, WA 98902  
Phone: 509-575-2494 FAX: 509-457-7132

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November 8, 2002

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**HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2002**  
**IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED**  
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- ARKANSAS**            - Soybean, extra light amber, \$1.35
- CALIFORNIA**        - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.40  
                         - Cotton/Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.40  
                         - Cotton/Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.30  
                         - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.30 - 1.50  
                         - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.20 - 1.40  
                         - Mixed Flowers, amber, \$1.35 -- dark amber, \$1.10 (small lots)  
                         - Orange, white, \$1.40 - 1.50
- FLORIDA**            - Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50  
                         - Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.50  
                         - Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.50  
                         - Floral not reported, white, \$1.40
- IDAHO**                - Mint, color not reported, \$1.50
- IOWA**                - Floral not reported, white, \$1.60 -- extra light amber, \$1.55
- LOUISIANA**        - Chinese Tallow, color not reported, \$1.06
- MICHIGAN**        - Floral not reported, white, \$1.52½ - 1.60  
                         - Floral not reported, extra light amber, \$1.55
- MONTANA**         - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.00 -- light amber, \$1.00  
                         - Clover, white, \$1.40 - 1.60 -- amber, \$1.37 (small lot)

**NEW YORK** - Floral not reported, white, \$1.46

**NORTH DAKOTA** - Clover, white, \$1.60 -- extra light amber, \$1.30 - 1.55  
 - Clover, light amber, \$1.37 (small lot)  
 - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.00-1.30 (high price small lot)  
 - Mixed Flowers, dark amber, \$1.00 (small lot)

**OREGON** - Floral not reported, white, \$1.50

**SOUTH DAKOTA** - Clover, white, \$1.52 - 1.60

**TEXAS** - Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.45

**UTAH** - Clover, white, \$1.52 - 1.55 -- extra light amber, \$1.30

**WASHINGTON** - Alfalfa, white, \$1.60 -- extra light amber, \$1.40  
 - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.30 - 1.40 (lower price small lot)  
 - Mint, amber, \$1.30 - 1.37 (lower price small lot)  
 - Mint, dark amber, \$1.37  
 - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.01  
 - Mixed Flowers, dark amber, \$1.30 (small lot)  
 - Raspberry, white, \$1.40 (small lot)  
 - Raspberry, extra light amber, \$1.41

**WISCONSIN** - Clover, white, \$1.35 - 1.50

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

**PROVINCE'S NOT REPORTED**

- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.53  
 - Floral not reported, white, \$1.21 - 1.75

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

**EAST COAST.....ARGENTINA** - Clover, white, \$1.69  
**VIETNAM** - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.43

**WEST COAST.....INDIA** - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$.95 - 1.05  
**THAILAND** - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.05

**COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER****APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) . . .**

Beekeepers are making winter preparations and most are continuing to provide supplemental food and sugar water to the bees as honey stores are very low in most cases. October had almost normal rainfall for the month; however, the drought continues. The first killing frost occurred near the end of the month and since then daytime temperatures have been in the 50's and low 60's with lows in the upper 20's and 30's. Extension and Inspection Agents are reminding beekeepers to keep a close watch on colonies this winter as some are going into the winter weaker than desired.

**CALIFORNIA . . .**

Conditions were fairly normal for October as numerous weather systems moved in and out of the state. The first half was fairly warm and dry with only an occasional shower reported along the north coast and in the mountains. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, several low pressure flows moved across the state dropped temperatures below normal and bringing much needed rainshowers. The last few days of October, conditions were again warm and dry.

A few producers finished up extracting the last of this years honey crop. After the honey is off, they are moved to the foothills for the winter. Brooding has slowed and very little feeding was being done as bees were still bringing in pollen from a little eucalyptus and various late-fall flowers. Rain is badly needed to extend any type of floral sources. Most producers left on adequate stores of this years crop as bees tend to get through winter with their own honey to eat. Colonies were lost last year from mites so treatments have already been put in.

While there is still little to no market for wax, a few handlers were starting to take in small lots. The price being paid varies, but producers get the best deal if they trade for supplies rather than take cash.

Packers were still able to purchase adequate supplies to fill their orders. Some reported getting calls for foreign producers that have taken note of the higher prices being paid here. Much of the honey being purchased continues to be small lots.

**COLORADO . . .**

Cooler temperatures have prevailed for the latter part of the month for most of the state as storms have brought much needed moisture. Some mountain areas of Northern Colorado received from 2-3 feet of snow during the last week of the month. Temperatures in Northeast Colorado remained cool for the last part of the month with daytime highs only in the low to mid-30s. Low temperatures ranged from the mid-teens to the low 20s.

Most migratory beekeepers have moved their colonies to California and south Texas to work winter crops. The colonies that remained in the state have been medicated and are currently being given supplemental feed as most fall sources have dried up.

**GEORGIA . . .**

Colonies around the state were in generally good condition. Moisture levels were adequate. There was a dearth of any significant nectar sources around this state in October. Several beekeepers were involved in supplemental feeding of colonies with sugar syrup or corn syrup. Commercial beekeepers around the state have essentially concluded their fall maintenance programs which included treatment for mites and American foul brood.

**IDAHO . . .**

With extraction all done most producers are reporting at least an average crop of honey. Hives are being stockpiled where they will remain until they are shipped to California. The bees seem to be in good overall condition. Extremely cold weather hit Idaho the end of the month causing some beekeepers to remove hives from the foothills into their yards earlier than expected.

**ILLINOIS . . .**

The fall honey flow had been much better due to late rainfall with many areas receiving 1 - 2 ½ inches of rainfall on numerous days. The states colonies seem to be in good condition as beekeepers prepared them for overwintering. The late, frequent rains combined with above seasonal temperatures allowed had some bees to work butterfly bushes, roses, magnolia, miniature pear blossom and lavender. Late in the month, protected areas in the south also had iris bloom. Most of southern and central sections of the state reported freezing temperatures had not occurred in their area this month.

A few beekeepers started supplemental feeding activities.

Honey and wax movement was reported good at local fall festivals. The quality of the honey being offered has been excellent. Retail sales were reported good and bulk movement picked up.

**INDIANA . . .**

Most fall mite treatments were completed and preparing colonies for overwintering was the main activity for beekeepers.

Weather conditions were ideal most of the month over the state. Southern and central areas finally received ample rainfall after the hot, dry summer. Some areas reported a spotty, heavy killing frost in October while other areas close by had no frost at all.

Floral sources bees have been working (mostly in the southern section) were various fall wildflowers and goldenrod. A few bees were also working late butterfly bush bloom.

Some of the migrant colonies were inspected by the state Apiary Department before departing for overwintering in various southern states

Demand for honey was very good, at late farmers markets and fall festivals throughout the state. Bulk honey demand was also good. The retail level sales were generally unchanged.

**MISSISSIPPI . . .**

Colonies in the northern and the southern portions of the state were in generally good condition. A few beekeepers reported loss of a few bees in the central portion of the state very recently. This is currently being investigated by entomologists. Rainfall in the last few weeks has been excessive and this has prevented bees from searching for any late season source of pollen. Colonies are living off feedings of sugar syrup or corn syrup or stores of honey in the hive. Commercial beekeepers around the state have essentially concluded their fall maintenance programs which included treatment for mites and American foul brood.

**MISSOURI & IOWA . . .**

Harvest weather during October continued to be generally good in Missouri, most beekeepers are finished. Iowa beekeepers are also finished with harvest. Precipitation was normal in Missouri and below normal in Iowa. Temperatures were generally below normal in both states with temperatures expected to get even cooler next week.

**MISSOURI & IOWA continued...**

There were some cold days and nights in both states during October. Beekeepers in most locations have been doing light to moderate feeding in Missouri and basically no feeding in Iowa due to the cold and wet weather. There was still a little aster in Missouri for the bees to work. In Iowa, a few beekeepers were busy finishing preparing the colonies for winter. The estimation of this years crop production is projected to be normal to slightly above normal.

**MONTANA . . .**

Most of the state had fairly mild conditions the first part of October. High temperatures were in the 60's and lows were mostly in the 30's with light precipitation. The weather began to change around the 12<sup>th</sup> as highs were only in the 50's and lows dropped into the teens and low 20's. Kalispell posted three consecutive daily-record lows of 14, 16 and 17 degrees from the 12 to the 16<sup>th</sup>. Other records were also set as Cut Bank dropped to 6 degrees and Great Falls was also 16 degrees. Record nighttime lows continued in some areas through the end of the month and daytime highs never got above freezing. Only light rain fall in most areas but parts of Central Montana did see their first snow of the season. Topsoil moisture finished the month at 23% very short and 35% short.

Migratory beekeepers reported their bees are in good condition as they continue to move them to winter locations in California. Cluster size and weight are very good going into the winter months and enough honey was left on to keep colonies strong. Seasonal beekeepers finished extracting this year's honey crop which was less than average. Most of their bees have been sold and the remainder are in good condition but getting hungry.

**NEW ENGLAND . . .**

Octobers weather for the New England area was seasonable temperatures in the first 2 weeks ranged from the low 50s to low 60s, the last 2 weeks turned cold with temperatures in the 40s over night temperatures dipped into the low 30s. Precipitation was above normal for the first time in months.

Beekeepers report a good wrap up to the harvest with colonies going into the winter strong and healthy. Beekeepers are now doing last minute fix ups and winterizing there hives. LAST REPORT OF THE SEASON...

**NORTH CAROLINA...**

Even though some rain was received, dry and warm conditions continued to prevail across the state throughout the month of October. The condition of the colonies is fairly good going into the winter. Due to the low food supply in the fall, the weight of the colonies in the eastern part of the state is light and moderate in the Piedmont and Western parts of the state. Feeding is being recommended by the apiary specialists. Two more counties were added to the 38 counties originally reporting finding the Small Hive Beetle. However, at this time, no significant damage has been found. Also, beekeepers are being encouraged to continue watching the hives close for feeding and continue to use treatment to keep the Varroa Mite down.

Honey sales were good throughout October, and a good portion of the lighter than normal supplies have already been sold.

**OHIO . . .**

The first confirmed case of antibiotic resistant foul brood was reported last month. Inspectors are currently investigating how wide spread this is. Most hives will require supplemental feeding as the falls nectar sources were scarce and sparse. Other pests were reported to be fairly mild and not expected to be a major winter problem.

**OREGON . . .**

October was cooler than normal across the state. The only exception was around the middle of the month when daily-record highs were recorded as Hillsboro posted 80 degrees; Medford was 86 degrees and Salem hit 83 degrees. A couple of days later, Pendleton set a record when their daytime high reached 75 degrees. Drought conditions continue across the state as only light precipitation fell during October. For the season, 11 of the 18 weather stations in Eastern Oregon have precipitation levels less than 50% of normal. Some areas on the Westside have moisture levels at 10% of normal. October ended with topsoil moisture 55% very short and 33% short.

Most bees in Oregon are reported to be in good condition as they have been medicated, covered and set in winter locations. Bees were still bringing in a little pollen, from mostly fall flowers, throughout October but a heavy frost the last few days of the month destroyed all remaining all remaining floral sources.

A lot of this years honey crop has been sold because of the high prices packers are paying.

**UTAH . . .**

Yields in the Utah area were better then expected most producers are reporting at least an average crop. Record breaking cold temperatures that hit Utah the end of the month has caused some shippers to ship there hives early to California. Due to the high wholesale prices being paid for honey the retail market was very slow.

**WASHINGTON . . .**

The first two weeks in October were fairly cold, especially in Eastern Washington. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, the coldest weather on record so early in the season was recorded in Spokane at 19 degrees; Omak with 17 degrees and Davenport dipped to 13 degrees. Parts of Western Washington were also cool as Olympia had a record-low of 28 degrees also on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Unseasonably warm and dry weather covered the state through the 24<sup>th</sup>. Olympia notched a record high of 72 degrees just five days after setting a record low. Most areas had highs in the 70's with lots of sunshine which gave farmers and producers a chance to finish their fall chores. Temperatures began to drop and October ended with record lows across the state. Nighttime lows dipped into the single digits and teens with Central and Eastern Washington setting numerous record lows when temperatures were as much as 11-18 degrees below normal. The biggest concern across the State is the lack of precipitation. Irrigation water in parts of Central Washington was shut off the middle of the month. Some producers were hauling water to their cattle as water sources were very low or dried up. Even parts of the usually wet, Western Washington were beginning emergency cut-off restrictions on water and cattle were being fed hay to compensate for lack of pasture.

The bees are in good condition across the state. Until the freezing temperatures pretty much eliminated all floral sources the end of the month, they were still seen bringing in pollen. This years honey crop is reported to be spotty with the best crops coming from areas that occasionally received a little precipitation, such as the foothills of the Cascade Mountains.

The high price of honey tempted producers to take off more honey than usual to sell rather than leaving it in the hives for feed later. This could cause them to purchase supplemental feed earlier than usual.

**WISCONSIN . . .**

October temperatures were close to normal over most of the state. By the middle of the month most areas had measurable snow fall.

Most beekeeper activities included preparing bees for overwintering by adding sugar water or candy boards. Fall treatments for mites was completed early in the month.

The fall demand for honey was good as many beekeepers had strong sales at fall festivals. Wax demand also remained good for beekeepers. Bulk movement was reported good and retail demand continues to be good.

## U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY &amp; VALUE

	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE 2002</u>	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
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<b>HONEY, NATURAL, PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE-----</b>			<b>DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</b>	
Mexico	8,442	11,071	36,169	47,436
Bermuda	1,588	7,245	1,588	7,245
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,500	3,480
Barbados	---	---	1,090	2,875
N. Antilles	---	---	2,677	9,069
United Kingdom	---	---	18,659	42,250
Netherlands	---	---	1,843	9,202
Belgium	---	---	3,736	4,900
France	---	---	1,996	9,083
Germany	6,221	8,160	30,869	61,014
Kuwait	34,802	45,650	135,230	303,933
Saudi Arabia	---	---	134,800	269,897
Qatar	---	---	3,270	9,028
Arab Emirates	---	---	47,821	138,065
Yemen	---	---	120,675	295,500
Pakistan	---	---	16,850	16,652
Malaysia	---	---	7,385	9,686
Philippines	1,202	3,276	148,481	309,910
China	4,764	11,332	13,791	35,307
Korean Republic	---	---	147,857	193,947
Taiwan	---	---	5,269	10,059
Japan	---	---	86,021	204,942
<hr/>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,019</b>	<b>86,734</b>	<b>967,577</b>	<b>1,996,480</b>
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<b>HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED -----</b>			<b>DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</b>	
Canada	29,170	61,256	409,129	857,029
Mexico	27,913	36,612	119,286	177,192
Costa Rica	---	---	17,145	36,018
Bermuda	---	---	2,022	6,080
Bahamas	---	---	939	2,707
Aruba	1,000	3,375	1,000	3,375
Guadalupe	---	---	6,036	19,255
Sweden	---	---	20,376	35,276
United Kingdom	---	---	128,543	238,120
Ireland	---	---	287	3,138
France	---	---	2,407	2,968
Germany	---	---	7,768	10,246
Spain	---	---	1,996	5,808
Yemen	---	---	41,071	91,876
Thailand	---	---	16,329	37,440
Malaysia	---	---	32,658	74,880
Singapore	1,134	6,114	34,968	106,970
Indonesia	16,819	49,320	79,685	191,917
Philippines	---	---	39,935	80,935
China	3,058	7,832	169,063	180,460
Korean Republic	---	---	16,597	60,055
Japan	18,487	41,496	56,438	111,929
Australia	---	---	13,426	30,000
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,581</b>	<b>206,005</b>	<b>1,218,304</b>	<b>2,372,407</b>
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**EXPORTS continued**

<b>HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE</b>				
Canada	7,092	13,280	66,304	108,114
Mexico	1,161	2,841	2,322	5,597
Germany	---	---	10,839	10,246
China	39,440	42,004	118,320	123,250
Japan	---	---	597	3,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,693</b>	<b>58,125</b>	<b>198,382</b>	<b>250,507</b>

**U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE**

COUNTRY	<b>AUGUST 2002</b>			<b>YEAR TO DATE 2002</b>		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
<b>NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE</b>						
Canada	1,357,488	3,258,304	3,271,009	8,174,513	15,191,222	15,306,920
Mexico	94,496	182,859	188,654	338,993	580,944	599,785
Chile	---	---	---	710,781	1,090,958	1,141,107
Brazil	18,850	32,692	33,742	324,810	443,901	474,191
Uruguay	---	---	---	19,722	34,908	58,208
Argentina	137,116	254,014	265,678	1,832,952	2,320,604	2,472,778
Denmark	---	---	---	26,794	61,349	65,392
United Kingdom	---	---	---	2,906	13,567	14,139
Germany	35,640	46,608	47,758	53,640	67,488	70,078
Czech Republic	---	---	---	35,511	53,637	57,374
Hungary	---	---	---	36,000	41,760	44,640
Poland	---	---	---	960	3,492	3,717
Ukraine	---	---	---	18,850	26,373	27,333
Italy	2,330	13,459	14,129	3,130	18,641	20,061
Romania	59,012	68,966	73,286	59,012	68,966	73,286
India	---	---	---	585,768	769,359	846,665
Thailand	---	---	---	985,780	1,188,800	1,272,426
Vietnam	237,210	297,760	328,306	962,245	1,214,387	1,325,946
China, Mainland	135,402	136,008	144,258	1,650,089	1,735,613	1,890,781
Hong Kong	---	---	---	74,840	85,626	95,559
Australia	---	---	---	78,880	105,699	107,980
New Zealand	---	---	---	1,950	7,800	8,128
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,077,544</b>	<b>4,290,670</b>	<b>4,366,820</b>	<b>15,978,126</b>	<b>25,125,094</b>	<b>25,956,494</b>

**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- EXTRA LIGHT AMBER**

Canada	8,682	15,312	15,357	475,693	775,673	779,462
Mexico	---	---	---	852,744	1,382,804	1,442,168
Guatemala	---	---	---	20,100	24,657	26,733
Bahamas	9,802	16,799	17,338	9,802	16,799	17,338
Chile	---	---	---	541,055	803,472	834,418
Brazil	19,140	31,901	34,315	491,121	730,149	775,131
Uruguay	19,526	36,319	36,916	587,958	890,043	919,353
Argentina	---	---	---	140,215	170,456	180,405



**IMPORTS continued...**

Ukraine	18,850	32,981	52,819	18,850	32,981	52,819
Spain	41,760	88,055	93,055	62,640	120,486	126,486
Greece	---	---	---	1,032	4,718	4,861
India	40,000	74,074	76,274	120,752	175,251	181,757
Pakistan	19,000	25,213	27,713	19,000	25,213	27,713
Thailand	---	---	---	1,909,940	2,234,531	2,462,584
Vietnam	---	---	---	2,671,500	3,031,413	3,215,277
Malaysia	---	---	---	216,920	249,127	281,226
China	---	---	---	1,006,542	1,003,098	1,109,468
Australia	---	---	---	296,480	370,943	398,984

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176,760</b>	<b>320,654</b>	<b>353,787</b>	<b>9,442,344</b>	<b>12,041,814</b>	<b>12,835,883</b>
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**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER**

Canada	1,132	2,945	2,976	216,239	438,794	441,625
Mexico	588,088	1,034,495	1,068,487	5,363,526	8,037,196	8,367,330
Guatemala	---	---	---	129,120	204,573	216,317
Peru	17,232	28,433	30,490	116,676	166,552	175,998
Chile	---	---	---	1,273,504	1,830,946	1,938,592
Brazil	267,500	433,632	453,359	950,527	1,357,613	1,439,797
Uruguay	124,173	182,766	191,495	4,963,377	7,640,369	7,950,267
Argentina	30,535	44,882	47,820	331,761	451,314	477,004
United Kingdom	333	3,646	3,963	333	3,646	3,963
France	---	---	---	411	2,031	2,212
Germany	56,520	100,300	105,922	189,017	339,173	385,176
Hungary	---	---	---	34,314	61,279	63,928
Switzerland	---	---	---	75,400	117,975	121,078
Spain	---	---	---	20,880	36,122	36,822
Romania	---	---	---	21,370	26,884	27,141
Bulgaria	---	---	---	20,233	26,424	26,426
India	55,800	75,043	80,690	1,093,931	1,431,286	1,576,167
Burma	---	---	---	93,750	92,625	93,737
Thailand	17,400	29,290	30,490	1,494,768	1,780,391	1,862,169
Vietnam	1,016,290	1,384,156	1,499,703	8,703,145	1,079,830	11,721,075
Malaysia	78,880	91,388	99,836	591,600	696,043	758,073
China	---	---	---	4,209,102	4,031,108	4,356,496
Hong Kong	6,311	35,700	36,814	43,431	76,903	82,471
Taiwan	---	---	---	3,645	7,776	8,192
Australia	17,996	30,404	35,404	1,600,181	2,011,830	2,171,292
New Zealand	---	---	---	600	3,806	3,865

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,278,190</b>	<b>3,477,080</b>	<b>3,687,449</b>	<b>31,540,841</b>	<b>41,667,489</b>	<b>44,307,213</b>
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**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED**

Canada	---	---	---	433,220	640,379	643,960
Mexico	170,280	359,147	366,517	1,206,761	2,109,414	2,164,434
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	55,998	64,340	67,812
Brazil	137,180	208,288	218,979	293,465	413,608	440,590
Argentina	---	---	---	168,665	189,361	200,030
United Kingdom	---	---	---	672	2,349	2,523
France	---	---	---	2,238	14,562	16,629
Germany	---	---	---	90,000	133,055	134,550

**IMPORTS continued...**

Australia	3,384	17,168	18,505	8,231	45,209	48,408
Switzerland	782	5,505	5,735	9,198	65,224	67,865
Poland	---	---	---	1,080	2,634	2,946
Italy	---	---	---	18,889	19,370	20,489
Greece	---	---	---	835	6,680	7,135
Turkey	---	---	---	578	3,960	5,099
Thailand	---	---	---	19,720	26,961	44,214
Malaysia	---	---	---	98,600	113,681	122,809
China	---	---	---	59,160	49,298	56,903
Hong Kong	---	---	---	3,906	5,147	6,397
Taiwan	656	3,783	3,966	5,892	28,251	29,217
Australia	---	---	---	324,880	403,290	430,947
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>312,282</b>	<b>593,891</b>	<b>613,702</b>	<b>2,800,988</b>	<b>4,336,773</b>	<b>4,512,957</b>

**SALEM BEEKEEPER'S GIZMO HAS HONEY INDUSTRY ABUZZ**

Monday, November 4, 2002 - - By The Associated Press

SALEM, OREGON – A Salem beekeeper has invented a machine that uses powdered sugar instead of chemicals to rid bees of the deadly Varroa mite, a parasite wiping out hives around the country.

The bees are sunk in a vat of powdered sugar, sent onto a vibrating screen and emerge free of the mite. Harry Vanderpool says a couple of pounds of powdered sugar and his invention – a machine he calls the Mitey-Victor – could help beekeepers get the upper hand against the mite. At stake are billions of dollars in the honey industry and in crops reliant on bee pollination.

Scientists trying to stop the Varroa mite have long known that powdered sugar will cause the mites to release their grip on honeybees, although they're not sure why. But Vanderpool's mechanical extractor is something new, and it has the world of apiculture buzzing with speculation.

The beekeeper's invention could provide an alternative to the chemical warfare that has been waged on Varroa mites for the past 15 years. Vanderpool's concept showed enough promise that the Oregon Department of Agriculture gave him nearly \$12,000 from a federal grant to develop a prototype. The machine is a two-level vibrating screener that is powered by a 12-volt battery. Made of stainless steel, the prototype is built on a two-wheeled trailer chassis.

"This isn't rocket science whatsoever," Vanderpool said. Bees and powdered sugar go in a hopper at the top. Mites and leftover sugar fall into separate drawers at the bottom. The Varroa mites dry up and die in less than an hour. Most of the bees fly out of the machine, and others are temporarily dazed and fall onto a conveyor that deposits them on the ground.

Powdered sugar is routinely used to deliver antibiotics to bees because the insects will eagerly consume it. Ken Kite, a Stayton resident who keeps beehives as a hobby, let Vanderpool test his machine on his bees. He was impressed, as well as amused: "It just bounced these sugar-coated bees out into a pile." The bees were unharmed after their journey through the Mitey-Victor, Kite said, and subsequent tests indicated that few mites remained in the hives. Vanderpool, who keeps 50 hives on his property south of Salem, says his bees have passed through the Mitey-Victor with no ill effects. Similar screening devices are used in industries ranging from commercial bakeries to rock-crushing operations. But the Mitey-Victor has patentable features, and Vanderpool has been granted a provisional patent, which gives him a year to get a full-fledged patent.

Varroa mites have spread across the nation since they were first detected here in 1987. Only Hawaii has escaped their onslaught. They have devastated wild-honeybee colonies and become an expensive nuisance for the estimated 200,000 beekeepers in the United States. Industry experts agree that chemicals, which were the first line of defense against the mites, have become less and less effective as mites adapted.

